

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 36 of 1881.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd September 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....	30th August 1881.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	22nd ditto.
6	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	2nd September 1881.
7	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensing	671	23rd August 1881.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan	296	
11	"Chāruvartā"	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	29th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	28th ditto.
13	"Dūt"	Calcutta	.....
14	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	26th ditto.
15	"Halisahar Prakāshikā"	Calcutta	.....	27th ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	
17	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	20th ditto.
18	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	
19	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
20	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	22nd ditto.
21	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	21st ditto.
22	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	25th ditto.
24	"Sādhāranī"	Chinsurah	500	28th ditto.
25	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	24th ditto.
26	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	29th ditto.
27	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing	.....
28	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	27th ditto.
29	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	
30	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
31	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	22nd to 31st Aug. & 1st to 3rd Sept. 1881.
32	"Samvād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	29th to 31st do. & 2nd ditto.
33	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	19th & 26th do. & 1st to 3rd ditto.
34	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	
35	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	24th to 3rd do. ditto.
36	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	27th ditto.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	25th ditto.
39	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	25th ditto.
40	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	29th ditto.
41	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	27th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	26th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Akhbār-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
44	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

MEDINI,
August 20th, 1881.

THE *Medini*, of the 20th August, states, for general information, that indigo oppressions have of late rather increased than diminished in Midnapore. The measures adopted by Government with a view to bring about a settlement of the disputes have extremely disappointed the tenants, whose attitude is such as is likely to lead to troubles at no distant date. The inhabitants of the Bagri pergunnah are no easy men to deal with; men of peaceful habits, they become really ungovernable when excited by any cause. To bring them under subjection, Government was originally obliged to proclaim the martial law amongst them. Most of them are *Choárs*. A speedy settlement of their disputes with the indigo-planters has become exceedingly desirable.

MEDINI.

2. We give below the substance of a long article in the same paper headed the "Midnapore Canal." It has been shown in a former article that the Midnapore Canal is neither at present, nor is it likely to be hereafter, a remunerative work, and that there is very little probability of its proving a success as a navigable canal. This is also clearly seen from the enormous expenditure which is annually incurred to keep in repairs the numerous locks, aqueducts, anicuts and other works which are never found in a satisfactory condition. The locks occasionally give way, silts form in the bed of the canal, there are occasional breaches in the embankments; while on the other hand it is not unoften found necessary to demolish existing embankments for the purpose of letting out superfluous water and to again reconstruct them. The Luchmipore lock, which was repaired but the other day, is not, it is said, yet in a safe condition. The silt clearance operations again are proving exceedingly costly. The repairs, it is now found, are entailing more expenditure than was incurred on account of the original works. The greatest obstacle in the way of the Midnapore Canal proving a success, however, lies in the fact that the water-supply in the Cossye river is not sufficient to make the canal a navigable one. There is the further consideration that the peasantry are not at all disposed to use the canal water, and many of them openly declare their determination not to renew their contracts when the existing ones have expired. Irrigation with canal water again, although it at first stimulates production, in the long run destroys the fertility of the soil.

PARIDARSHAK,
August 21st, 1881.

The Bengal Jails.

3. The *Paridarshak*, of the 21st August, notices with gratification that the complaints made in the vernacular newspapers regarding the cruel treatment extended to prisoners in the jails of Bengal have at length reached the ears of Members of Parliament, and that the subject is now receiving attention. The authorities, it would seem, are now sorry that they introduced a low scale of diet into the jails—a measure which has led to such fearful mortality among the convict population. They, however, ought to have considered this before. A speedy reform of the system of jail administration has become exceedingly necessary.

NAVARI BHAKAR,
August 22nd, 1881.

Lord Hartington at Cooper's Hill.

4. The following observations are extracted from an article in the *Navaribhakar* of the 22nd August:—On the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes to the successful students of the Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, Lord Hartington incidentally referred to the fact that nothing has so much contributed to the stability of the British Empire in India as the courage and energy of the European officials resident therein, proof of which fact was clearly found during the Sepoy Mutiny. Now the people of India are really surprised, as well as disappointed, to hear this statement

of the Secretary of State, a statement which is more worthy of a Tory than of a Liberal statesman. The stability of the British Empire in India lies in the loyalty and good-will of the two hundred and fifty millions of its inhabitants, and not in the number of soldiers at the disposal of Government. It was said that the College at Cooper's Hill would be abolished. It now appears there is no foundation for this statement. This institution has now become a burden upon the Indian revenues. What does India get in return for the money it expends on the maintenance of this College? Certainly nothing beyond this, that the successful students of the College are depriving the native Engineers of their bread. It is not unreasonable to suppose that the examinations at the Indian Engineering Colleges have been recently made extremely difficult only with a view to pass as few natives as possible. But is it just to maintain the College at the expense of India, simply to provide Englishmen with the means of earning a livelihood?

The portion of Lord Hartington's speech, in which the students are exhorted to be courteous in their treatment of the natives of India, is very interesting and gratifying, and it would have been still more so had the observations made therein been addressed to Civilians. Lord Hartington, however, would have done better had he appealed to the gratitude of the students, and not so much to their sense of duty. They ought to be grateful to a people who pay for their education and give them employment.

5. The same paper refers to a recent instance of high-handedness on the part of the officers of the Suburban Municipality. Quite recently the Municipal Overseer pulled down, without having issued any previous notice to the owners, the culverts in front of several shops situated on the Russa road in Bhowanipore. The works had been erected by the shopkeepers at much expense, and with the permission of the Municipal authorities.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
August 22nd, 1881.

6. In another article the same paper dwells on the inequitable nature of certain heavy charges incurred in England which India has to pay. Besides the Engineering College at Cooper's Hill already referred to, there is the Store Department of the India Office, and the Indian reserve force, which are all costly arrangements for supplying certain wants of the Indian Government, which, however, could be cheaply supplied in India itself.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

7. The same paper contains an article on village roads. These mostly become impassable during the rains, occasioning great inconvenience to the villagers that use them. The people indeed pay the road cess, but do not obtain much good in return. This result is largely due to the incompetency of the members of Road Cess Committees, who generally follow the advice of their Chairmen, the Magistrates. The composition of these Committees should be improved, and the allotments of the road cess money should be made after due consideration of the claims of the different localities under the jurisdiction of the Committee. The task of looking to the repairs of village roads should be entrusted to village punchayets.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

8. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 22nd August, argues in a long article that as the notion of what constitutes unchastity, or any other breaches of social propriety, is widely different among Natives and Englishmen, it is no wonder that European Judges so often fail to administer justice, as it is understood by the people of this country, in all cases in which such questions require to be decided. The reason is clear enough; but the wonder is the rulers do not appear to perceive this. It is for this that they do not

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
August 22nd, 1881.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 23rd, 1881.

hesitate to condemn to death a person who may have murdered his unfaithful wife, or a widow who may have murdered her illegitimate offspring. In both cases the sympathies of native society are with the condemned party.

9. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 23rd August, again recurs to the subject of the projected railway to Mymensingh. The Editor strongly deprecates the proposal that the line should commence at Dacca, and not at Sibálaya or Arichá. It would, if the proposal were carried out, fail to attract the large traffic now carried on by boat.

BHARAT MIHIR.

10. The same paper contains an article headed the "Waste of Indian Treasure." The writer mentions a number of cases in which India has been made to pay for things which ought to have been paid for by England. The cost of the China War, the Abyssinian War, and the Perak War, have all been thrown upon the people of this country. They have to pay for the maintenance of the India Office, the Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, and the Indian reserve in England. The Cabul War consumed enormous treasure, and yet India has not gained anything by its prosecution. The selection of Abdur Rahman as Amir of Cabul by Government has not removed their anxiety. In spite of the assistance in money and arms he has obtained from the British Government, the Amir is now showing extreme weakness, and Lord Ripon is said to have asked the Secretary of State for permission to give Abdur Rahman more assistance. Is not Government satisfied with all that it has done for him? The wisest course that it can now follow is one of non-interference in the affairs of Afghanistan.

CHARU VARTA,
August 29th, 1881.

Proposed Railway to Mymensingh.

11. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 29th August, makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 9.

SAHACHAR,
August 24th, 1881.

12. We make the following extracts from an article in the *Sahachar* of the 24th August:—It is unreasonable to expect at the hands of an English Ministry

reform in any matter in which the English tax-payer is neither directly nor indirectly interested. The war in Southern Africa was consuming much English blood and treasure, and the peace-loving Liberal Ministry therefore put a stop to it. English blood was being spilled in some measure, and English gold was being expended, no matter how little, in the Cabul War, and the Ministry therefore could not remain indifferent to the matter, and the Cabul War was brought to an end. To this extent then have we benefited during the ascendancy of the Liberals. It is unreasonable to expect any more improvement either in our financial or political condition. There will be no relief granted to the overtaxed people of India; but the cotton duties will be at once abolished. The rulers are not content even with having inflicted a loss of revenue to the extent of 20 lakhs of rupees upon the Exchequer. Lord Hartington has promised in Parliament to repeal the whole of the cotton duties next year. Ever since he came into power the present Secretary of State has sedulously sought to conciliate Manchester. It is not probable that old Mr. Gladstone will long remain in the field of politics, and Lord Hartington will most probably succeed him as leader of the Liberal Party; and so it is his chief interest to conciliate Lancashire beforehand. It is for this that, under the authority of Cobden and his party, he is trying to strengthen his position at the expense of India. The Indian tax-payer, however, will have no relief granted him. Lord Hartington is sanguine that the income and expenditure of the Government of India balance each other. He will not repeal any one of the existing taxes. There certainly can be no difficulty in making the income and expenditure balance each other. Everybody can of course get

over a difficulty by sacrificing the interests of some other person. A deficit in the revenues can easily be made good by the appropriation of the hard-earned money of the people of India; and there is never a lack of pretexts. The authorities also are well up in the art of milking. There is no one in this country who is bold enough to open his lips in protest. Why should there be after this any difficulty in making income and expenditure balance each other? Increase expenditure as much as you please, there is money earned with our life-blood, which will always provide the necessary funds. The native of India has not yet acquired a John Bull disposition that he need be feared. The high statesmanship of the present day need not be regulated by considerations of morality; nor is it necessary to conciliate the people of India in order to win popularity in Parliament. Why then should India occasion anxiety? Lord Hartington, it seems, has adopted the right policy. Like a wise man he is only bent upon gaining his object, no matter what the means are that are employed. He is seeking to befriend Manchester at the expense of India, and thus to pave the way to his own future political greatness. India will remain as miserable as ever. Whoever comes to *Lanká* becomes a demon. Tory or Whig, they are all the same to India. They equally suck dry her resources to enrich their own country.

Lord Hartington's love of India.

13. On the same subject the *Sár Sudhánidhi*, of the 29th August, makes similar observations.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
August 29th, 1881.

14. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 27th August, is thankful to Sir Ashley Eden for his successful efforts to bring about a settlement of the disputes between the rival sections of the family of Nawab Khajeh Abdool Gani of Dacca by means of arbitration.

Sir Ashley Eden and the family suit of Nawab Abdool Gani.

URDU GUIDE,
August 27th, 1881.

15. The *Halisahar Prakashiká*, of the 27th August, contains a long article on Mulharrao Guicowar. The Editor dwells on the cruel treatment to which the deposed Chief of Baroda is subjected at the hands of his jailor, Dr. Seward. The attention of the Government of India is drawn to the subject.

Mulharrao Guicowar.

HALISAHAR
PRAKASHIKA,
August 27th, 1881.

16. The *Sádháraní*, of the 28th August, regrets to notice that the authorities are gradually becoming opposed to the idea of imparting high English education to the people of India. This is seen from the way in which the Colleges are being abolished one by one. The only reason of this seems to be a lack of sympathy on the part of the rulers for the ruled. Formerly, Government was very anxious to confer the benefit of education upon the people, in order that they might become fit to associate with the members of the ruling race who were then, from their long residence in this country, exceedingly attached to it. All this has now changed, owing to improvement in the means of communication with England. The officials now do not feel any abiding interest in the people.

High education in India.

SADHARANI,
August 28th, 1881.

17. The *Som Prakash*, of the 29th August, remarks that Government should enact a law for punishing such writing as is likely to foment race antagonism. The necessity of this cannot be questioned, seeing that a law was passed for punishing what was called seditious writing in native newspapers, but was really strongly worded criticisms of public men and measures. The *Pioneer* recently contained a virulent attack on natives of this country. Writing of this type produces worst consequences.

The *Pioneer* on natives.

SOM PRAKASH,
August 29th, 1881.

18. On two articles, respectively entitled the "Engineering College at Cooper's Hill" and "Major Baring," the same paper makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 4 of this Report and paragraph 8 of our last Report.

The Cooper's Hill College.
Railway extension in India.

SOM PRAKASH.

SOM PRASAD,
August 29th, 1881.

19. The same paper in a long article dwells on the desirability of repealing the Vernacular Press Act, and concludes by asking Lord Ripon, Lord Hartington, and Mr. Gladstone all of whom so strongly denounced it while in opposition not to defer its repeal any more.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 3rd September 1881.